

By Senator Holzendorf

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to workforce preparation;
creating the Learning and Earning for Parents
(LEAP) Program, to be administered by the
Department of Education; providing purposes;
providing for eligibility; providing for the
amount of benefits; providing an effective
date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Learning and Earning for Parents (LEAP)
Program; creation; purposes; eligibility; benefits.--

(1) There is created the Learning and Earning for
Parents (LEAP) Program, to be administered by the Department
of Education. The LEAP program shall provide education,
training, and work experience for low-income parents, to
provide a trained and educated workforce for employers in this
state and to enable parents to obtain jobs that will support
their families.

(2)(a) A parent is eligible for the LEAP program if:

- 1. The parent has one or more dependent children;
- 2. The total family income is below the federal
poverty level; and
- 3. The parent is enrolled in a recognized job training
or education program for at least 20 hours per week or in an
accredited postsecondary program at a level not beyond the
4-year college level for at least 12 hours per week.

(b) To maintain eligibility once enrolled in LEAP, the
parent must work for up to 20 hours per week in work-study,
other paid work, or a combination of work-study and other paid

1 work, and must be making satisfactory progress as determined
2 by the department by rule.

3 (3) Subject to legislative appropriation, the LEAP
4 program shall provide funding for work-study positions for
5 LEAP participants, payments to bring participants' total
6 family income, including work-study payments, to the federal
7 poverty level, and reimbursement of up to \$150 per month for
8 each participant's transportation costs for travel to and from
9 education, training, and work and to and from child care or
10 after-school programs. Participants shall be provided
11 subsidized child care on a sliding-scale fee basis pursuant to
12 the sliding-scale fee schedule for child care which is used by
13 the Department of Children and Family Services. The amount of
14 reimbursement for transportation and the amount of childcare
15 subsidies do not count in calculating the family income for
16 purposes of the LEAP program.

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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20 SENATE SUMMARY

21 Creates the Learning and Earning for Parents (LEAP)
22 Program, to be administered by the Department of
23 Education. Provides that the purpose of the program is to
24 provide education, training, and work experience for
25 low-income parents, so that they may support their
26 families, and to provide a trained and educated workforce
27 for employers in this state. Provides requirements for
28 initial and continuing eligibility. Sets standards for
29 benefits that are to be provided, subject to legislative
30 appropriation, including cash benefits, reimbursement for
31 transportation costs, and subsidized child care.